

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MARCH 12, 1880.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BRUCE, from the Committee on Education and Labor, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bills S. 792 and S. 865.]

The Committee on Education and Labor, to whom were referred the bills (S. 792 and 865) which propose to distribute certain unclaimed pay and bounty moneys belonging to colored soldiers, and now in the Treasury of the United States, have had the subject referred to them under consideration, and beg leave to report :

In order to proceed advisedly in maturing the measure referred to us, we, as preliminary to the consideration of the several bills before us, placed ourselves in communication with the Secretary of the Treasury for the purpose of ascertaining correctly the condition of the fund which these bills proposed to distribute to institutions of learning established for the instruction of colored youth, and the exact amount available for this purpose.

In response to inquiries for information, the Secretary of the Treasury furnished a certified copy of a letter on the subject under consideration, addressed by the Second Auditor of the Treasury to Hon. John Goode, chairman of House Committee on Education and Labor. He also, in a separate letter, communicated additional facts from the office of the Auditor, brought to light since the letter was written to Mr. Goode.

By the first letter it appears that the total amount of money covered back into the Treasury was \$487,000, and that already more than one-half of this sum had been claimed either by the original claimants or their legal representatives, leaving unclaimed \$240,233.

The amount of unclaimed appropriation not yet covered into the Treasury is stated at \$45,000, all of which, in the opinion of the Auditor, will be claimed. The second letter informs us that since the date of the first communication new claims, amounting to over \$6,000, have been filed in the office of the Auditor, and the opinion is expressed that from present indications the whole fund will be claimed and exhausted by either the original claimants or their legal representatives.

We fully appreciate the pressing need of the colored classes for increased educational facilities and the vast advantages to be had therefrom, and if the fund, as originally estimated, existed, and was available, its judicious distribution among the institutions contemplated would do much towards meeting a very pressing want among a class of our citizens who, for manifest reasons, should be especially regarded by government in legislation touching educational matters.

But the information obtained from the Auditor shows that the exist-

ing fund is inadequate to meet in any sufficient and satisfactory manner the purpose contemplated in the bills before us, and, under the circumstances, it is questionable whether even this reduced amount can legitimately be made available, or should at this juncture be diverted from the ends for which it was originally appropriated.

Under the circumstances, we are not prepared to favor any positive action in the direction suggested by these bills, and respectfully request to be discharged from their further consideration.